GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2037
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
PROPER TREATMENT FOR AIDS PATIENTS
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is aware that AIDS patients are not getting proper treament in the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to create special wards in Government hospitals for such patients;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to assist the States Government's for setting up of exclusive hospitals for treatment of AIDS with proper HIV diagnostic kits;

(d) if so, whether any arrangements have been made to supply medicines to the AIDS patients free of cost;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Some stray instances of discrimination against AIDS patients have been reported from time to time. However, National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) not only issues guidelines to hospitals through all State AIDS Control Societies (SACS), that HIV/AIDS cases should be treated without any stigma and discrimination but also provides funds of the amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh to each government run medical college and District Hospital in the country through the concerned State AIDS Control Society for treating opportunistic infections likely to affect people living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, funds are also made available to all hospitals for Post Exposure Prophylaxis to any medical/ para medical staff who gets accidentally exposed to HIV due to injury from sharp, instruments and syringe needles.

(b)and(c) Setting up of exclusive hospitals and special wards exclusive to HIV/AIDS cases are discouraged as such type of arrangement is likely to add to the stigma and discrimination against HIV/ AIDS. Proper diagnostic facilities are available in most of the medical colleges and district hospitals in the country and this facility is proposed to be extended in remaining medical colleges & district hospitals.

(d),(e)and(f) Arrangements have been made to supply free Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) to AIDS cases through 25 selected medical institutions in 13 States/UT of the country, that is Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Nagaland, Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, UP, Rajasthan, W Bengal and Chandigarh. NACO plans to scale up ART services by establishing at least one hospital in each major state of the country to provide free ART services. Global Fund Round IV, has agreed to provide support of an amount of USD 140.878 million, that is equivalent to Rs 648.039 crore for providing free ART services in six high prevalence states and NCT Delhi for a period of five years. The same will be implemented after EFC approval and signing of agreement with the GFATM.